



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: Anan Huprikar et al.

Serial No.: 10/619,913 Group Art Unit: 3683

Filed: 07/15/2003 Examiner: Nguyen, Xuan Lan T.

Title: MIXED MODE MOUNTING ASSEMBLY
FOR SHOCK/STRUT ROD

Attorney Docket No.: IN-12163

INTERVIEW SUMMARY

**Mail Stop AF
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450**

Dear Sir:

On May 22, 2006 and May 24, 2006, Applicant's Representative, Sam Hidle, conducted telephone interviews with Examiner Xuan Lan Nguyen.

On both May 22nd and May 24th, certain language of claims 1 and 31, as well as U.S. Patent No. 6,076,794 to Pradel, were specifically discussed. The obviousness rejection of claim 31 was also discussed as Applicant did not understand the analogy of a plate in Pradel to the plate as claimed in claim 31.

The particular language of claim 1 discussed in the interviews addressed the following two limitations;

said first portion of said insulator disposed within said cavity defining an exterior surface complementary in configuration with said inner surface of said first cup . . . (emphasis added)

said support structure further including a flange extending outwardly from said first cup with said flange uniformly positioned relative to said ledge . . . (emphasis added)

The particular language of claim 31 discussed in the interviews addressed the following limitations;

 said insulator abutting said plate. . .

 a jounce bumper. . . mounted to said plate on an opposite side from said insulator. . .

 said flange uniformly positioned relative to said ledge. . .

Applicant argued that Pradel does not disclose an insulator having a surface that is complementary in configuration with a cup or a flange that is uniformly positioned relative to a ledge of an insulator. Applicant also argued that Pradel does not have a common plate with an insulator mounted on one side and a jounce bumper mounted on an opposing side.

During the May 22nd interview, the Examiner mentioned that she would revisit the Official Action in light of this discussion and possibly withdrawal the rejections. We therefore scheduled the second interview for May 24th.

On May 24th, Applicant reiterated the discussions from the May 22nd interview. In addition, the specific definitions for the terms “complementary” and “uniform” were discussed. In particular, the Examiner referred the Applicant to the following Webster definitions;

Complementary - serving to fill out or complete; mutually supplying each other's lack; being complements of each other.

Uniform - consistent in conduct or opinion; having always the same form, manner, or degree: not varying or variable; of the same form with others: conforming to one rule or mode: consonant; presenting an unvaried appearance of surface, pattern, or color.

The Examiner stated that the cup in Pradel has a repeating pattern of indentations, which creates a ‘uniform’ cup. The Examiner also noted that the insulator in Pradel, although it's not of the exact same configuration as the cup, abuts the cup at each of the indentations such that the insulator is ‘complementary’ with the cup.

Applicant noted that the Webster definitions were supportive of the position that the subject invention, as claimed, is distinguished from Pradel. In particular, Applicant argued that the phrase "complementary in configuration" means that the shape or configuration of the surfaces of the insulator and the cup must be the same. Applicant also argued that the term "uniform" is being used in the context of the flange uniformly positioned relative to the ledge in all instances. Applicant specifically referred the Examiner to the cross-sectional view of Figure 1 on Pradel. The Examiner disagreed and does not believe that these terms or the definitions of these terms distinguish claims 1 and 31 from Pradel.

Applicant also discussed the language in claim 31 relating to the plate and the mounting of the insulator and jounce bumper to the plate. The Examiner stated that the standing rejection of claim 31 is proper. In particular, the Examiner contends that the term "mounted" is broad enough to cover the situation where the jounce bumper is indirectly mounted to the plate. Applicant agreed with the Examiner on the interpretation of the "mounted" term. However, Applicant attempted to persuade the Examiner that the rejection remains improper because it would require a complete reconstruction of Pradel to arrive at the invention as claimed in claim 31. The Examiner disagreed and believes it would be obvious to reconfigure Pradel to arrive at the configuration of the subject invention as claimed in claim 31.

These discussions related to the general thrust of the principal arguments presented to the Examiner. An agreement as to the allowance of any of the claims was not reached. Applicant mentioned to the Examiner that a Request for an Appeal along with a Request for Pre-Appeal Review will be filed.

It is respectfully submitted that the Application is presented in condition for allowance, which allowance is respectfully solicited. Although no fees are believed due, the Commissioner is authorized to charge our Deposit Account No. 08-2789 for any fees or credit the account for any overpayment.

Respectfully submitted,

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